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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination of this new U.S. patent application, Applicants respectfully submit the following amendments and remarks to be entered into this patent application. For the convenience of the examiner and the Office the entire set of claims for this application is provided herewith. A marked-up copy of the claims as amended by this Amendment is submitted herewith.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims as follow:

1. An optical fiber amplifier comprising:
two laser sources emitting pump light beams of wavelengths different from each other;
and
a tellurite fiber pumped with the pump light emitted from said two laser sources;
wherein the absolute difference in wavenumber between said pump light beams
emitted from the two laser sources is 125-290cm⁻¹.

2. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a coupler that combines the pump light beams emitted from said two laser sources.

3. An optical fiber amplifier comprising:
three or more laser sources emitting pump light beams of wavelengths different from
one another; and

a tellurite fiber pumped with the pump light emitted from said three or more laser
5 sources;

wherein said three or more laser sources are divided into two groups not overlapping
each other in wavelength and the absolute difference in wavenumber between the
corresponding weight center wavelengths of said two groups is $125\text{-}290\text{cm}^{-1}$.

10 4. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 3, further comprising a coupler
that combines the pump light beams emitted from said three or more laser sources.

5. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 1, wherein said tellurite fiber is a
dispersion compensating fiber.

15 6. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a gain
equalizer installed in the downstream stage of said tellurite fiber in incident direction of
signal light.

20 7. An optical fiber amplifier comprising:
two laser sources emitting pump light beams of wavelengths different from each other;
and

a first tellurite fiber and a second tellurite fiber pumped with the pump light emitted
from said two laser sources;

25 wherein the absolute difference in wavenumber between said pump light beams
emitted from the two laser sources is $125\text{-}290\text{cm}^{-1}$.

8. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 7, wherein said first tellurite fiber
and second tellurite fiber are connected in series.

30 9. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 8, further comprising a gain
equalizer installed between said first tellurite fiber and second tellurite fiber.

10. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:
35 a coupler that combines the pump light beams emitted from said two laser sources; and

a splitter that splits an output light from said coupler into input light branches to be provided for said first tellurite fiber and second tellurite fiber.

11. An optical fiber amplifier comprising:
5 three or more laser sources emitting pump light beams of wavelengths different from one another; and
two tellurite fibers pumped with the pump light emitted from said three or more laser sources;
wherein said three or more laser sources are divided into two groups not overlapping
10 each other in wavelength and the absolute difference in wavenumber between the corresponding weight center wavelengths of said two groups is $125\text{-}290\text{cm}^{-1}$.

12. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 7, wherein at least one of said first tellurite fiber and said second tellurite fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

13. An optical fiber amplifier comprising:
first and second laser sources emitting pump light beams of wavelengths different from each other;
a tellurite fiber pumped with the pump light emitted from said first laser source; and
20 a silica fiber pumped with the pump light emitted from said second laser source.

14. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 13, wherein the difference in wavenumber between the pump light emitted from said second laser source and that emitted from said first laser source is $42\text{-}166\text{cm}^{-1}$.

15. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 13, wherein said tellurite fiber and said silica fiber are connected in series.

16. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 15, wherein said tellurite fiber is
30 installed upstream in incident direction of signal light.

17. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 15, further comprising:
a first coupler for injecting the pump light emitted from said first laser source into said tellurite fiber; and
35

a second coupler for injecting the pump light emitted from said second laser source into said silica fiber.

18. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 13, wherein said tellurite fiber is
5 a dispersion compensating fiber.

19. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 13, wherein said silica fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

10 20. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 13, further comprising a coupler that combines the pump light emitted from said first laser source and that from said second laser source.

21. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 20, wherein said tellurite fiber
15 and said silica fiber are connected in series.

22. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 21, wherein said tellurite fiber is installed upstream in the incident direction of signal light.

20 23. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 20, wherein said tellurite fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

24. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 20, wherein said silica fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.
25

25. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 22, further comprising a reflector installed between said tellurite fiber and said silica fiber to reflect the pump light emitted from said second laser source.

30 26. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 20; wherein said tellurite fiber and said silica fiber are connected in series, said tellurite fiber is installed upstream in the incident direction of signal light, and a reflector that reflects the pump light emitted from said second laser source is installed between said tellurite fiber and silica fiber.

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27. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 25, wherein said tellurite fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

28. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 25, wherein said silica fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

29. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 26, wherein said tellurite fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

30. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 26, wherein said silica fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

31. An optical fiber amplifier comprising:
a plurality of tellurite fibers;
a plurality of silica fibers; and
two laser sources emitting pump light beams of wavelengths different from each other;
wherein said tellurite fibers and said silica fibers are connected in series adjacent to each other.

32. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 31, wherein the difference in wavenumber between the two pump light beams emitted from said two laser sources is $42\text{-}166\text{cm}^{-1}$.

33. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 31, further comprising a coupler that combines the pump light beams emitted from said two laser sources and signal light.

34. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 31, wherein said tellurite fiber is installed in a most upstream stage of the incident direction of signal light.

35. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 31, wherein the number of said tellurite fibers is two and that of said silica fibers is two.

36. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 31, wherein said plurality of tellurite fibers are dispersion compensating fibers.

37. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 31, wherein said plurality of silica fibers are dispersion compensating fibers.

38. An optical fiber amplifier comprising:
5 first, second and third laser sources emitting pump light beams of wavelengths different from one another;
a tellurite fiber pumped with said first laser source; and
a silica fiber pumped with said second and third laser sources.

39. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 38;
10 wherein the difference in wavenumber between the pump light emitted from said second laser source and that emitted from said first laser source is $42\text{-}166\text{cm}^{-1}$, and
the difference in wavenumber between the pump light emitted from said first laser source and that emitted from said third laser source is $42\text{-}294\text{cm}^{-1}$.

40. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 38, wherein said tellurite fiber and said silica fiber are connected in series.

41. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 40, wherein said tellurite fiber is
20 installed upstream in incident direction of signal light.

42. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 38, further comprising a coupler that combines pump light emitted from said second laser source and pump light from said third laser source.

43. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 38, wherein said tellurite fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

44. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 38, wherein said silica fiber is a
30 dispersion compensating fiber.

45. An optical fiber amplifier comprising:
first, second and third laser sources emitting pump light beams of wavelengths different from one another;

a tellurite fiber pumped with said first and second laser sources; and
a silica fiber pumped with said third laser source.

46. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 45;
5 wherein the difference in wavenumber between the pump light emitted from said third
laser source and that emitted from said first laser source is $42\text{-}166\text{cm}^{-1}$, and
the difference in wavenumber between the pump light emitted from said first laser
source and that emitted from said second laser source is $125\text{-}290\text{cm}^{-1}$.

47. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 45, wherein said tellurite fiber
and said silica fiber are connected in series.

48. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 47, wherein said tellurite fiber is
installed upstream in the incident direction of signal light.

49. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 45, further comprising a coupler
that combines pump light emitted from said first laser source and pump light emitted from
said second laser source.

50. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 45, wherein said tellurite fiber is
a dispersion compensating fiber.

51. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 45, wherein said silica fiber is a
dispersion compensating fiber.

52. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 45, wherein, λ_1 and λ_2 being
wavelengths of pump light emitted from said first and said second laser sources, ($\lambda_1 > \lambda_2$), at
peaks of gain spectrum provided by pumping with only the pump light emitted from said
first laser source, the ratio between an on-off Raman gain of the tellurite fiber (in dB values)
30 at λ_1 and that at λ_2 lies between 100:80 and 100:100 when the tellurite fiber is pumped with
the pump light beams emitted from said first and second laser sources.

53. An optical fiber amplifier comprising:
first, second, third and fourth laser sources emitting pump light beams of wavelengths
35 different from one another;

a tellurite fiber pumped with said first and second laser sources; and
a silica fiber pumped with said third and fourth laser sources.

54. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 53;
5 wherein the difference in wavenumber between the pump light emitted from said third
laser source and that emitted from said first laser source is $42-166\text{cm}^{-1}$,
the difference in wavenumber between the pump light emitted from said first laser
source and that emitted from said second laser source is $125-290\text{cm}^{-1}$, and
the difference in wavenumber between the pump light emitted from said first laser
10 source and that emitted from said fourth laser source is $42-290\text{cm}^{-1}$.

55. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 53, wherein said tellurite fiber
and said silica fiber are connected in series.

15 56. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 55, wherein said tellurite fiber is
installed upstream in the incident direction of signal light.

57. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 53, further comprising a coupler
that combines the pump light emitted from said first laser source and that from said second
20 laser source.

58. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 53, further comprising a coupler
that combines the pump light emitted from said third laser source and that from said fourth
25 laser source.

59. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 53, wherein said tellurite fiber is
a dispersion compensating fiber.

60. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 53, wherein said silica fiber is a
30 dispersion compensating fiber.

61. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 53, wherein, λ_1 and λ_2 being
wavelengths of pump light emitted from said first and said second laser sources, ($\lambda_1 > \lambda_2$), at
gain peaks provided by pumping with only the pump light emitted from said first laser
35 source, the ratio between an on-off Raman gain of said tellurite fiber (in dB values) at λ_1 and

that at λ_2 lies between 100:80 and 100:100 when the tellurite fiber is pumped with the pump light beams emitted from said first and second laser sources.

5 62. An optical fiber amplifier comprising:
first, second, third and fourth laser sources emitting pump light beams of wavelengths
different from one another;
fifth and sixth laser sources;
a first tellurite fiber pumped with said first and second laser sources;
a second tellurite fiber pumped with said fifth and sixth laser sources; and
10 a silica fiber pumped with said third and fourth laser sources.

15 63. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 62;
wherein the difference in wavenumber between the pump light emitted from said third
laser source and that emitted from said first laser source is $42\text{-}166\text{cm}^{-1}$,
the difference in wavenumber between the pump light emitted from said first laser
source and that emitted from said second laser source is $125\text{-}290\text{cm}^{-1}$, and
the difference in wavenumber between the pump light emitted from said first laser
source and that emitted from said fourth laser source is $42\text{-}290\text{cm}^{-1}$.

20 64. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim [62 or] 63, wherein the pump
light beams emitted from said fifth and first laser sources have the same wavelength and the
pump light beams emitted from said sixth and second laser sources have the same
wavelength.

25 65. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 62, wherein said first tellurite
fiber, said silica fiber and said second tellurite fiber are connected in series in this order.

30 66. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 62, further comprising a coupler
that combines pump light emitted from said first laser source and pump light emitted from
said second laser source.

35 67. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 62, further comprising a coupler
that combines pump light emitted from said third laser source and pump light emitted from
said fourth laser source.

68. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 62, further comprising a coupler that combines pump light emitted from said fifth laser source and pump light emitted from said sixth laser source.

5 69. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 62, wherein at least one of said first tellurite fiber and second tellurite fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

10 70. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 62, wherein said silica fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

15 71. An optical fiber amplifier comprising:
first and second laser sources emitting pump light beams of wavelengths different from each other;
a tellurite fiber; and
an Erbium-doped fiber.

20 72. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 71, wherein the wavelength of the pump light emitted from said first laser source is 1410-1440nm and the wavelength of the pump light emitted from said second laser source is 1450-1500nm.

73. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 71, wherein said tellurite fiber and said Erbium-doped fiber are connected in series.

25 74. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 73, wherein said tellurite fiber is installed upstream in incident direction of signal light.

75. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 71, wherein said tellurite fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

30 76. An optical fiber amplifier comprising:
first and second laser sources;
a tellurite fiber pumped with a pump light emitted from said first laser source;
a wavelength-selective splitter to split a signal light amplified in said tellurite fiber into a signal light output of a first wavelength region and a signal light output of a second
35 wavelength region;

a Thulium-doped fiber that is pumped with a pump light emitted from said second laser source to amplify the signal light output of the first wavelength region; and

a coupler to combine the signal light output of the first wavelength region amplified in said Thulium-doped fiber and the signal light output of the second wavelength region.

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77. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 76, wherein the wavelength of the pump light emitted from said first laser source is 1310-1480nm.

78. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 76, wherein said tellurite fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

79. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 76, further comprising a third laser source and a silica fiber pumped with a pump light emitted from said third laser source, wherein the signal light output of said second wavelength region is amplified in said silica fiber.

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80. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 79, wherein the wavelength of the pump light emitted from said third laser source is 1380-1550nm.

81. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 79, wherein said tellurite fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

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82. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 79, wherein said silica fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

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83. An optical fiber amplifier comprising:

first laser source, second laser source and third laser source;

a tellurite fiber pumped with a pump light emitted from said first laser source;

a Thulium-doped fiber pumped with a pump light emitted from said second laser

30 source;

a silica fiber pumped with a pump light emitted from said third laser source;

wherein said tellurite fiber, Thulium-doped fiber and silica fiber are connected in series in this order.

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84. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 83, wherein the wavelength of the pump light emitted from said first laser source is 1310-1480nm and the wavelength of the pump light emitted from said third laser source is 1380-1550nm.

5 85. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 83, wherein said Thulium-doped fiber is a Thulium-doped fluoride fiber.

86. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 83, wherein said tellurite fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

10 87. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 83, wherein said silica fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

88. An optical fiber amplifier comprising:
15 a first laser source; and
an Erbium-doped tellurite fiber pumped with a pump light emitted from said first laser source;
wherein the wavelength of the pump light emitted from said first laser source is 1410-1440nm.

20 89. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 88, wherein the concentration of Erbium doped in said Erbium-doped tellurite fiber is 1000ppm by weight or less.

90. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 88, further comprising a second
25 laser source for pumping said Erbium-doped tellurite fiber, wherein the wavelength of a pump light emitted from said second laser source is 1450-1500nm.

91. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 90, wherein the concentration of Erbium doped in said Erbium-doped tellurite fiber is 1000ppm by weight, or less.

30 92. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 90, further comprising a coupler that combines the pump light emitted from said first laser source and that from said second laser source.

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93. An optical communication system including at least one transmission line segment comprising:

(a) a repeater incorporating a first laser source and a second laser source and a tellurite fiber pumped with a pump light emitted from said first laser source; and

5 (b) a unit transmission line having a silica fiber pumped with a pump light emitted from said second laser source.

94. The optical communication system as claimed in claim 93, wherein the difference in wavenumber between the pump light emitted from said second laser source and
10 the pump light emitted from said first laser source is $42\text{-}166\text{cm}^{-1}$.

95. The optical communication system as claimed in claim 93, wherein said tellurite fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

15 96. An optical communication system including at least one transmission line segment comprising:

(a) a repeater incorporating a first, a second and a third laser sources, and a fifth and a sixth laser sources, a first tellurite fiber pumped with the pump light emitted from said first and second laser sources, a first silica fiber pumped with pump light emitted from said third
20 laser source, and a second tellurite fiber pumped with pump light emitted from said fifth and sixth laser sources; and

(b) a unit transmission line having a fourth laser source and a second silica fiber pumped with pump light emitted from said fourth laser source;

25 wherein said first, second, third and fourth laser sources emit pump light beams of wavelengths different from one another.

97. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 96, wherein the difference in wavenumber between the pump light emitted from said third laser source and that emitted from said first laser source is $42\text{-}166\text{cm}^{-1}$,

30 the difference in wavenumber between the pump light emitted from said first laser source and that emitted from said second laser source is $125\text{-}290\text{cm}^{-1}$, and

the difference in wavenumber between the pump light emitted from said first laser source and that emitted from said fourth laser source is $42\text{-}290\text{cm}^{-1}$.

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98. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 96,
wherein the difference in wavenumber between the pump light emitted from said
fourth laser source and that emitted from said first laser source is $42\text{-}166\text{cm}^{-1}$,
the difference in wavenumber between the pump light emitted from said first laser
5 source and that emitted from said second laser source is $125\text{-}290\text{cm}^{-1}$, and
the difference in wavenumber between the pump light emitted from said first laser
source and that emitted from said third laser source is $42\text{-}290\text{cm}^{-1}$.

99. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 97, wherein the pump light
10 beams emitted from said first and fifth laser sources have the same wavelength and the pump
light beams emitted from said second and sixth laser sources have the same wavelength.

100. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 98, wherein the pump light
beams emitted from said first and fifth laser sources have the same wavelength and the pump
15 light beams emitted from said second and sixth laser sources have the same wavelength.

101. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 96, further comprising a seventh
laser source for pumping said second silica fiber, wherein pump light beams emitted from
said seventh and third laser sources have the same wavelength.
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102. The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 96, wherein said first tellurite
fiber, first silica fiber and second tellurite fiber are connected in series in this order in said
repeater.

25 103. An optical communication system including at least one transmission line
segment comprising:

(a) a repeater incorporating first, second and third laser sources, a first tellurite fiber
pumped with pump light emitted from said first and second laser sources, and a first silica
fiber pumped with pump light emitted from said third laser source; and

30 (b) a unit transmission line having a fourth laser source and a second silica fiber
pumped with pump light emitted from said fourth laser source;

wherein said first, second, third and fourth laser sources emit pump light beams of
wavelengths different from one another.

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104. The optical communication system as claimed in claim 103,
wherein the difference in wavenumber between the pump light emitted from said third
laser source and that emitted from said first laser source is $42\text{-}166\text{cm}^{-1}$,
the difference in wavenumber between the pump light emitted from said first laser
5 source and that emitted from said second laser source is $125\text{-}290\text{cm}^{-1}$, and
the difference in wavenumber between the pump light emitted from said first laser
source and that emitted from said fourth laser source is $42\text{-}290\text{cm}^{-1}$.

105. The optical communication system as claimed in claim 103,
10 wherein the difference in wavenumber between the pump light emitted from said
fourth laser source and that emitted from said first laser source is $42\text{-}166\text{cm}^{-1}$,
the difference in wavenumber between the pump light emitted from said first laser
source and that emitted from said second laser source is $125\text{-}290\text{cm}^{-1}$, and
the difference in wavenumber between the pump light emitted from said first laser
15 source and that emitted from said third laser source is $42\text{-}290\text{cm}^{-1}$.

106. The optical communication system as claimed in claim 103, further comprising
a fifth laser source for pumping said second silica fiber, wherein the pump light beams
emitted from said fifth and third laser sources have the same wavelength.

107. The optical communication system as claimed in claim 103, wherein said
repeater further comprises a second tellurite fiber, and said first tellurite fiber, first silica
fiber and second tellurite fiber are connected in series in this order in said repeater.

REMARKS

By this amendment, Applicant amended claims 4-8, 10, 12, 15, 16, 18-20, 25, 26, 34,
40-44, 47, 49-52, 55, 57-61, 64-71, 73-76, 78, 79, 83, 85-88, 90, 93, 95, 96, 101-103, 106
and 107 as filed in the priority Japanese application in order to avoid multiple dependency.
In making these revisions care has been taken to ensure that the claims remain supported by
30 the specification and that no new matter has been added.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be
required in this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17 during its entire pendency, or credit
any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1135. Should no proper payment be enclosed

herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 06-1135.

5

Respectfully submitted,
FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY

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By: Kathleen A. Ranney
Kathleen A. Ranney
Registration No. 37,702

Date: February 1, 2001

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FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY
120 S. LaSalle St., Suite 1600
Chicago, Illinois 60603
Phone: (312) 577-7000
Facsimile: (312) 577-7007

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

4. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim [2] 3, further comprising a coupler that combines the pump light beams emitted from said three or more laser sources.

5. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 1 [or 3], wherein said tellurite fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

6. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 1 [or 3], further comprising a gain equalizer installed in [the] downstream stage of said tellurite fiber in [the incident] incident direction of signal light.

7. (Amended) An optical fiber amplifier comprising:
two laser sources emitting pump light beams of wavelengths different from each other;

and
a first tellurite fiber and a second tellurite fiber[s] pumped with the pump light emitted from said two laser sources;

wherein the absolute difference in wavenumber between said pump light beams emitted from the two laser sources is $125\text{-}290\text{cm}^{-1}$.

8. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 7, wherein said first tellurite fiber and second tellurite fiber[s] are connected in series.

10. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 7 [or 8], further comprising:
a coupler that combines the pump light beams emitted from said two laser sources; and
a splitter that splits [the] an output light from said coupler into input light branches to be provided for said first tellurite fiber and second tellurite fiber[s].

12. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 7 [or 11], wherein at least one of said first tellurite fiber [or] and said second tellurite fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

15. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 13 [or 14], wherein said tellurite fiber and said silica fiber are connected in series.

16. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 15, wherein said tellurite fiber is installed upstream in [the] incident direction of signal light.

18. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 13 [or 14],
5 wherein said tellurite fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

19. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 13 [or 14], wherein said silica fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

20. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 13 [or 14], further comprising a coupler that combines the pump light emitted from said first laser source and that from said second laser source.

25. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim [20; wherein said tellurite fiber and said silica fiber are connected in series, said tellurite fiber is installed upstream in the incident direction of signal light, and] 22, further comprising a reflector [that reflects the pump light emitted from said first laser source is] installed between said tellurite fiber and said silica fiber to reflect the pump light emitted from said first laser source.

26. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim [20; wherein said tellurite fiber and said silica fiber are connected in series, said tellurite fiber is installed upstream in the incident direction of signal light, and] 22, further comprising a reflector [that reflects the pump light emitted from said second laser source is] installed between said tellurite fiber and said silica fiber to reflect the pump light emitted from said second laser source.

34. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 31, wherein said tellurite fiber is installed in [the] a most upstream stage of [the incident] incident direction of signal light.

40. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 38 [or 39], wherein said tellurite fiber and said silica fiber are connected in series.

41. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 40, wherein said tellurite fiber is installed upstream in [the incident] incident direction of signal light.

42. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 38 [or 39], further comprising a coupler that combines [the] pump light emitted from said second laser source and [that] pump light from said third laser source.

5 43. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 38 [or 39], wherein said tellurite fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

44. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 38 [or 39], wherein said silica fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

10 47. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 45 [or 46], wherein said tellurite fiber and said silica fiber are connected in series.

49. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 45 [or 46], further comprising a coupler that combines [the] pump light emitted from said first laser source and [that] pump light from said second laser source.

50. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 45 [or 46], wherein said tellurite fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

51. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 45 [or 46], wherein said silica fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

52. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 45 [or 46], wherein, λ_1 and λ_2 being wavelengths of pump light emitted from said first and said second laser sources, ($\lambda_1 > \lambda_2$), at [the gain] peaks of gain spectrum provided by [the] pumping with only the pump light emitted from said first laser source, the ratio between [the] an on-off Raman gain of said tellurite fiber (in dB values) at λ_1 [of said tellurite fiber] and that at λ_2 lies between 100:80 and 100:100 when the tellurite fiber is pumped with the pump light beams emitted from said first and second laser sources.

55. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 53 [or 54], wherein said tellurite fiber and said silica fiber are connected in series.

57. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 53 [or 54], further comprising a coupler that combines the pump light emitted from said first laser source and that from said second laser source.

5 58. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 53 [or 54], further comprising a coupler that combines the pump light emitted from said third laser source and that from said fourth laser source.

59. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 53 [or 54],
10 wherein said tellurite fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

60. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 53 [or 54], wherein said silica fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

61. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 53 [or 54],
15 wherein, λ_1 and λ_2 being wavelengths of pump light emitted from said first and said second laser sources ($\lambda_1 > \lambda_2$), at [the] gain peaks provided by [the] pumping with only the pump light emitted from said first laser source, the ratio between [the] an on-off Raman gain of said tellurite fiber (in dB values) at λ_1 [of said tellurite fiber] and that at λ_2 lies between
20 100:80 and 100:100 when the tellurite fiber is pumped with the pump light beams emitted from said first and second laser sources.

64. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim [62 or] 63,
25 wherein the pump light beams emitted from said fifth and first laser sources have the same wavelength and the pump light beams emitted from said sixth and second laser sources have the same wavelength.

65. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 62 [or 63],
30 wherein said first tellurite fiber, said silica fiber and said second tellurite fiber are connected in series in this order.

66. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 62 [or 63],
35 further comprising a coupler that combines [the] pump light emitted from said first laser source and [that] pump light emitted from said second laser source.

67. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 62 [or 63], further comprising a coupler that combines [the] pump light emitted from said third laser source and [that] pump light emitted from said fourth laser source.

5 68. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 62 [or 63], further comprising a coupler that combines [the] pump light emitted from said fifth laser source and [that] pump light emitted from said sixth laser source.

69. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 62 [or 63],
10 wherein [either] at least one of said first tellurite fiber [or] and second tellurite fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber [or both of said first and second tellurite fibers are dispersion compensating fibers].

70. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 62 [or 63],
15 wherein said silica fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

71. (Amended) An optical fiber amplifier comprising:
first and second laser sources emitting pump light beams of wavelengths different from each other; [and]
20 a tellurite fiber; and
an Erbium-doped fiber.

73. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 71 [or 72],
wherein said tellurite fiber and said Erbium-doped fiber are connected in series.

25 74. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 73, wherein said tellurite fiber is installed upstream in [the incident] incident direction of signal light.

75. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 71 [or 72],
30 wherein said tellurite fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

76. (Amended) An optical fiber amplifier comprising:
first and second laser sources;
a tellurite fiber pumped with [the] a pump light emitted from said first laser source;

a wavelength-selective splitter [that splits the] to split a signal light amplified in said tellurite fiber into a signal light output[s] of a first wavelength region and a signal light output of a second wavelength region[s];

a Thulium-doped fiber that is pumped with [the] a pump light emitted from said second laser source [and amplifys] to amplify the signal light output of the first wavelength region; and

a coupler [that combines] to combine the signal light output of the first wavelength region amplified in said Thulium-doped fiber and the signal light output of the second wavelength region.

78. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 76 [or 77], wherein said tellurite fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

79. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 76 [or 77], further comprising a third laser source and a silica fiber pumped with [the] a pump light emitted from said third laser source, wherein the signal light output of said second wavelength region is amplified in said silica fiber.

83. (Amended) An optical fiber amplifier comprising:
first [to] laser source, second laser source, and third laser source[s];
a tellurite fiber pumped with [the] a pump light emitted from said first laser source;
a Thulium-doped fiber pumped with [the] a pump light emitted from said second laser source;
a silica fiber pumped with [the] a pump light emitted from said third laser source;
wherein said tellurite fiber, Thulium-doped fiber and silica fiber are connected in series in this order.

85. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 83 [or 84], wherein said Thulium-doped fiber is a Thulium-doped fluoride fiber.

86. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 83 [or 84], wherein said tellurite fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

87. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 83 [or 84], wherein said silica fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

88. (Amended) An optical fiber amplifier comprising:
a first laser source; and
an Erbium-doped tellurite fiber pumped with [the] a pump light emitted from said first
laser source;

5 wherein the wavelength of the pump light emitted from said first laser source is 1410-
1440nm.

90. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim 88, further
comprising a second laser source for pumping said Erbium-doped tellurite fiber, wherein the
10 wavelength of [the] a pump light emitted from said second laser source is 1450-1500nm.

93. (Amended) An optical communication system including at least one
transmission line segment comprising:

(a) a repeater incorporating a first laser source and a second laser source[s], and a
15 tellurite fiber pumped with [the] a pump light emitted from said first laser source; and
(b) a unit transmission line having a silica fiber pumped with [the] a pump light
emitted from said second laser source.

95. (Amended) The optical communication system as claimed in claim 93 [or
20 94], wherein said tellurite fiber is a dispersion compensating fiber.

96. (Amended) An optical communication system including at least one
transmission line segment comprising:

(a) a repeater incorporating a first, a second and a [to] third laser sources and a fifth
25 [to] and a sixth laser sources, a first tellurite fiber pumped with [the] pump light emitted
from said first and second laser sources, a first silica fiber pumped with [the] pump light
emitted from said third laser source, and a second tellurite fiber pumped with [the] pump
light emitted from said fifth and sixth laser sources; and

(b) a unit transmission line having a fourth laser source and a second silica fiber
30 pumped with [the] pump light emitted from said fourth laser source;
wherein said first, second, third and [to] fourth laser sources emit pump light beams of
wavelengths different from one another.

101. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in claim [97 or 98] 96,
35 further comprising a seventh laser source for pumping said second silica fiber, wherein [the]

pump light beams emitted from said seventh and third laser sources have the same wavelength.

102. (Amended) The optical fiber amplifier as claimed in [one of claims 96-100]
5 claim 96, wherein said first tellurite fiber, first silica fiber and second tellurite fiber are connected in series in this order in said repeater.

103. (Amended) An optical communication system including at least one transmission line segment comprising:

10 (a) a repeater incorporating first, second and [to] third laser sources, a first tellurite fiber pumped with [the] pump light emitted from said first and second laser sources, and a first silica fiber pumped with [the] pump light emitted from said third laser source; and

(b) a unit transmission line having a fourth laser source and a second silica fiber pumped with [the] pump light emitted from said fourth laser source;

15 wherein said first, second, third and [to] fourth laser sources emit pump light beams of wavelengths different from one another.

106. (Amended) The optical communication system as claimed in claim [104 or 105] 103, further comprising a fifth laser source for pumping said second silica fiber,
20 wherein [the] pump light beams emitted from said fifth and third laser sources have the same wavelength.

107. (Amended) The optical communication system as claimed in [one of claims 103-105] claim 103, wherein said repeater further comprises a second tellurite fiber, and said
25 first tellurite fiber, first silica fiber and second tellurite fiber are connected in series in this order in said repeater.